



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
44th Session  
Agenda item 9

MEPC 44/9  
2 December 1999  
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## WORK OF OTHER BODIES

### Outcome of LEG 80

#### Note by the Secretariat

#### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This note provides information on the outcome of LEG 80 which is of interest to the Committee.
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 6
<i>Related documents:</i>	LEG 80/11

1 The Legal Committee held its eightieth session from 11 to 15 October 1999 and its report was circulated under the symbol LEG 80/11. The matters of interest to the Committee are summarized in the following paragraphs.

#### Compensation for pollution from ship's bunkers

2 The Legal Committee continued with its consideration of an international regime for liability and compensation for damage caused by oil from ships' bunkers, trying to resolve all outstanding issues to ensure that the text had reached the stage where no issues of substance remained to be resolved at a diplomatic conference.

3 The issues considered by the Legal Committee included the definition of shipowner, compulsory insurance, definition of pollution damage and responder immunity (LEG 80/11, paragraphs 78 to 109) and made significant progress.

4 The Legal Committee then noted that, as a result of a decision of the Council, it might have to forgo one of its four meeting weeks proposed for the 2000-2001 biennium to offset the cost of a diplomatic conference. It also note the view of the Council that diplomatic conference should be held only when preparatory work had been such as to ensure, insofar as it is possible, their success.

5 The Legal Committee, after an extensive round of interventions, decided to recommend the draft bunker convention to the Council for a diplomatic conference in the 2000-2001 biennium. This decision of the Legal Committee was based on the clear recognition that good progress had been made on this item which would ensure its success at a diplomatic conference, and its likely entry into

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force. A large number of delegations also indicated that there would be no significant issues of concern likely to be raised at the diplomatic conference. To this end, the Legal Committee agreed to forgo one of its four meeting weeks proposed for the 2000-2001 biennium (LEG 80/11, paragraphs 132 to 134).

**Action requested of the Committee**

6 The Committee is invited to note the above information and decide as appropriate.

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